



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

SUSAN A. GENDRON  
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT IV.A.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner\*

Date: November 12, 2008

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Design and Funding Approval*; Durham School Department, New PreK-8 School construction project in Durham, Maine.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

The new preK-8 elementary school will be constructed in Durham, Maine, and will house 505 students. The project received Concept Approval on September 12, 2007. The subsequent referendum passed with a 71% vote in favor of the project.

The new school will be built on the present site of the existing Durham Elementary School. The site is large enough that the students will remain in the existing school until the new school is completed and then the old facility will be destroyed.

The Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to MRSA Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

The basic design of the project and budget have not changed since Concept Approval, and it has met the needed criteria to move forward which will allow it to be bonded and constructed on schedule.

The Durham School Department is requesting Design and Funding Approval for a new preK-8 elementary school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, and

- The Durham School Department proposed school construction project is eligible for school construction under MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
- The proposed project and authorized method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and the Durham School Department;
- The Durham School Department estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
- The Durham School Department proposed project is in compliance with MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to special education facilities.

**Project Information**

Project: New PreK-8 Elementary School  
Superintendent: Dr. Shannon Welsh  
Principal: William Pidden  
Architect: Harriman  
School(s) to be closed: The existing Durham Elementary School

Exhibit IV.A.

*Design & Funding Approval Consideration*

Durham School Department, New PreK-8 School

Date: November 12, 2008

Page -2-

### **Project Budget Information**

Concept Approval Date: September 12, 2007

Total Project Cost: \$23,946,585

Local Only (no State participation): \$2,176,696

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$21,609,709

Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$160,180

### **CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

At its meeting on November 3, 2008, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to the Durham School Department for a preK-8 school construction project located in Durham, Maine.

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to the Durham School Department for a new preK-8 school in Durham, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the design and funding budget as presented.\*\*

\*Prepared by the School Facilities Services Team

\*\*This approval constitutes Design & Funding Approval. Final Funding Approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 10, Subsection 1, of the State Board of Education Rules for School Construction Projects, which states:

*“Final Funding Approval by the Commissioner establishes the Project Budget and takes place after construction bids have been received. At that time, the Commissioner may reduce the budget to finance the project, thus providing additional funds for other projects.”*